

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – January 30, 2014
Danvers Town Hall, One Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923

ADMINISTRATIVE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Martha Swindell, in the Meeting Room at the Danvers Town Hall in the Town Manager's Conference Room with the reading of the public notice, posted by the Town Clerk. Also in attendance were: Edmund Kowalski, Member; Dr. McLaughlin, Member; Peter Mirandi, Director of Public Health, Janell Powers, Clerk, Karen Nelson, Director of Planning & Human Services.

Others Present: Ingrid Barry, Town Resident; Barbara Ikalainen, North Shore Community College Green Initiative Coordinator; State Representative Ted Speliotis and his Chief of Staff Bill Bates.

Martha Swindell recognized Edmund Kowalski as a wonderful chair for the past 2 years and thanked him as she takes on the role of Chair.

Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2013

Mr. Kowalski moved to accept. Mrs. Martha Swindell seconded. Dr. McLaughlin was not at the last meeting. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Extended Stay

Martha Swindell informed Ted Speliotis of certain conditions of the homeless at the Extended Stay and requested Representative Speliotis' opinion on the contract that must exist between the Massachusetts Office for Children and Families and the motels housing our homeless population.

Speliotis stated that he had been contacted by the Fire Chief for code violations and is aware of Police visits to the hotel and the numerous complaints received by the Health office. He further stated that the State does have a contract with the hotel but, trash should be picked up, linens should be changed and, the rooms should be vacuumed. There are several basic health issues that are small in nature but collectively can serve as a health threat if they are not done. Think of it as common sense. The real question is did you alter the delivery of services because your client is the State? The clientele are homeless and there is a roof over their head, but the trash needs to be cleaned up and the linens need to be changed and the rooms need to be vacuumed. It is all part of common sense. The hotel should be providing this service. When you start to question the contract you are questioning the oversight. Whether it is in the contract or not, they are supposed to be held to standards. This is not similar to the mold issue that was addressed last year at a different site. In that case, he made a phone call and it was addressed. Time we are talking about a lot of smaller things. Mold was a huge threat to health.

He wrapped up by suggesting that he would make an unexpected visit to the location and by the time of your next meeting, he will issue some kind of response on this issue.

Peter Mirandi said that our next meeting will be in the first Thursday in March. Ted Speliotis said that he will report back to Peter Mirandi before then, he would like to take care of this problem. The Board is in agreement.

Barbara Ikalainen, NSCC Green Initiative Coordinator

Peter Mirandi welcomed Barbara Ikalainen. She is working hard with North Shore Community College staff to make the campus green. She is here today to reach out to the Town in her efforts. Last year, they had a community garden at the Alfalfa Farm in Topsfield. Students from the school planted the garden and proceeds went to a food pantry? Karen Nelson told her that this would be a perfect opportunity for her to connect with Community Council.

Ingrid Barry

Mr. Mirandi stated that Ingrid reached out to him about a year ago with an interest in crafting a by-law to control cats.

Ingrid Barry stated that cats are the only domestic animal that is not regulated. She added that cats should not be allowed to leave the property of the owner. Cats can get rabies and are required to get a rabies shot but there is no proof of them having the rabies shot if there is no required licensing. Cats are allowed to wander freely and she firmly believes that it is not very healthy for the cat or a child or anything that may encounter the cat.

Peter Mirandi stated that the disease rate for cats should be explored before the Board considers intervening with its authority. Dr. McLaughlin said that State Law already requires everyone with a cat to have proof that they are inoculated. Mr. Kowalski asked if any other towns have this in place. Ingrid Barry stated that she thinks Barnstable has it but she has the American Veterinary boilerplate of regulations. Mrs. Swindell thanked her for coming and said they will see her next month.

Hong Kong Variance Request

Mr. Mirandi stated that Hong Kong Café has formally requested a variance. Inspector Mark Carleo found out that they were serving sushi when he went for the inspection. Serving sushi requires a variance. Upon Mr. Mirandi's recommendation, Mr. Kowalski motioned to issue the requested variance. Dr. McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

BOH 2014 Meeting Dates

Mr. Mirandi handed out the schedule for 2014 Board of Health meetings. Dates are subject to change.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**Permits and Licensing**

The report shows that 30% of the food establishments inspected since January 1, 2014 requires a re-inspection. Inspector Mark Carleo is working with managers to assure compliance but if they fail to comply after a re-inspection, they may be coming before the Board of Health for a hearing. Mr. Mirandi stated that he will have a full report on permits issued and fees received at the next meeting.

Public & Environmental Health Violations/Nuisance Investigations Report

Mr. Mirandi stated that we have responded to 9 violations, all but 4 have been corrected. Two of the four outstanding complaints are at the hotels.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Nurse's Report

Mr. Mirandi stated that approximately 50 doses of state supplied flu vaccine remain from an initial inventory of 740 (680 injections given). Nurse O'Shea reported that she continues to receive a few inquiries, especially for children. Dr. McLaughlin stated that pedi-flu shots are the same as the adult vaccine, but are prepared differently. He also provided information on the next strain being monitored: H9N7, which is the bird flu. There have been a limited number of cases in Asia to date, but the mortality rate is nearly 100%.

Disease Control/Epidemiology Report

Mr. Mirandi stated that Marian Myers reports since July 1, 2013 to January 27, 2014, there have been a total of 43 diseases that require investigation. Of these, there have been 9 cases of influenza in Danvers.

Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Mirandi stated that there is no new information on this at this time.

Sun Safety

Mr. Mirandi stated that Ruth Price continues to work with the 18 communities toward policy development. She is scheduled to address the Board in March and thanked Dr. McLaughlin for the articles that were forwarded to her last month. Mrs. Swindell stated that she is aware of one tanning business in town that has closed down.

Tobacco Control

Mrs. Swindell stated there are some new warnings coming out on e-cigarettes. Reports are that kids are drinking the mixture that is inside the e-cigarette. Mr. Kowalski asked if the selling of the e-cigarette was regulated and Mr. Mirandi replied no.

Medical Marijuana

Peter Mirandi stated that the upcoming Town Meeting will address dispensary sites by allowed zoning.

Mrs. Swindell stated that she worked at Hunt Hospital and it was wonderful to see the patients not in pain with medications, not marijuana. Dr. McLaughlin added that Marinol takes away nausea and Zofran does the same thing as marijuana. Mr. Mirandi reminded the Board that the medical marijuana referendum had already been passed. Mrs. Swindell stated that many problems still exist because it is not a simple issue. The biggest issue will be if there is a hardship rendered due to the expense; these individuals may be allowed to grow it at their home with the idea being to register with the Board of Health. This is what Town Meeting is seeking.

Mr. Mirandi asked that if the Board of Health were asked, do they still feel that the Department of Public Health has done a good job with regulations. Mrs. Swindell stated that she has read it over and over again and there is a lot to it. But it is not a public health issue; it is a law enforcement issue. Dr. McLaughlin agreed that enforcement is not in the purview of public health; Police should enforce and monitor these cultivators. After discussion the Board of Health reached a consensus to craft a statement in case they were asked to comment at Town Meeting. Mrs. Swindell would like to meet with Mr. Mirandi at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow to draft something.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Mr. Mirandi handed out the barn book results and when comparing it to the one done in 2004, there has been a slight drop in horses over the past 10-years. When asked about chickens, Mr. Mirandi clarified that the Barn Book does not include the number of households raising backyard chickens.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

District Incentive Grant (DIG) Update

Mr. Mirandi stated that they are working on getting inspectional services through the grant. Toward the regional effort to improve indoor air quality, there was great news that the Danvers Housing Authority is making all of their housing non-smoking.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Kowalski motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Swindell seconded. All were in favor. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Janell Powers
Board of Health Clerk